The Rejected X

THE REJECTED CHRIST

Is.53:3 He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief: and as one from whom men hide their face he was despised; ad and we esteemed him not.

The masterpieces of art, the highest inspirations of poetry and other literature, the hymnology of sacred music all go to help swell the praises of those who are followers of Jesus Christ and who acclaim Him to be the Son of God. Libraries have been written of Him who is the savior and ideal of men. Then if Jesus Christ is so universally and so highly acclaimed, why is He not universally accepted? Why is He still the despised and rejected of men? Life a magnet which ordinarily attracts metal to itself but which ~~causes~~ repels a polarized needle, so Jesus Christ drawns unto himsepf many indeed, but many more are repulsed. They even dislike and despise our Lord and Savior. Why? is our question this morn ng.

I. The discredited claims and associations of religion.
"A Friendly Discussion", the claims of the Mormons.
Jesus Christ ignored by conventional history.
The meagerness of our sourceof information about Him
The age in which He lived, one of superstition and scientific ignorance, idolatry and heathen worship

II. The uniqueness of His personality, enshrouded in mystery.
Some people adhereto facts and scientific accuracy so as to exclude all mystery. Great personalities always remain a mystery in spite of every explanation.

III. Many fear the holiness of Jesus' character.
The unregenerate heart hates holiness. Some people naturally oppose every good thing that comes along. People in whom devils lurk cringe and tremb in the presence of the Holy Christ.
One Sabbath day, in old Greyfriars Church in Edinburgh, two colleagues preached. In the morning Wm.Robertson took for his theme"The Compelling Power of Virtue", pointing out how deep down in the human heart there is a recognition and reverence of virtue.

In the afternoon John Erksine, either purposefully or coincidentally, declared that virtue had appeared on earth adorned in full grace and majesty, but instead of being worshipped and praised He had been hated and scorned mocked and scourged, nailed to a cross and crucified amid derision. When Jesus came all men did not kneel. Neither do all men kneel before Him now, and for the same reason that there is in unregenerated human nature a hatred and contempt for holiness and goodness.

III. The demands of Jesus turn many against Him.

1. The gospel of Christ is a call to repentance, a recognition of an authority than one's own, and a command torender service in full recognition of the rights and possibilities of all others.

Conclusion: As womanhood has always been lauded to the skies as a thing altogether lovely, angelic and sacred but wonan herself kelpt the slave and tool of man, having to fight for her every sight, so Jesus Christ is recognized as man's greatest personality and highest ideal, but Christ Himself still having to suffer and die because unregenerate human nature fears to let Him rule the affairs of men. The world must be won like the school teacher won the undisciplined girl in her class.

We all love Jesus and worship him, but do we give Him His rightful place in our lives?